

THE WINTER OF THE YEAR.

It is the Winter of the year!
Over buried flowers the snow rifts lie;
The storms have valled with ash gray
The blueness of the Summer sky;
No brooks in babbling ripples run,
No birds are singing in the hedge,
No violet nodding in the sun.
Beside the brook's frozen edge,
Yet unto leafless, broken boughs,
The greenless, mosses closely cling,
And near stern Winter's stormy verge
Float soft, prophetic airs of Spring.

It is the Winter of our life!
Over buried hopes the snow rifts lie;
And storms have valled with ash gray
The blueness of the cloudless sky;
No light steps cross the threshold stone,
No voice of love our welcome greet,
No gentle hand encloses our own,
With cordial salutation sweet;

Yet unto leafless, broken boughs
The greenless, mosses closely cling,
And near stern Winter's stormy verge
Float soft, prophetic airs of Spring.

—Luther G. Biggs.

TWO LOVERS.

"Of course I know it is a great piece of folly in me." "Then why do it?" The other young man laughed with a certain bitterness. He was standing in front of a large oak tree which was half cut through; he was leaning on his ax, and looking at the man near him, who was leaning on a fallen trunk and smoking a cigar.

About this person was the unmistakable air of wealth and success. He was, nevertheless, gazing at his companion with the ax with an expression of admiration.

"Why do it?" repeated Holt; and he lifted his weapon and swung it furiously against the oak. "I do it just for the same reason that tree is bound to fall, because it can't help it."

"Pshaw!"

Mr. Barron, though he uttered this exclamation as if in remonstrance, could not help a look of relief coming to his face. He felt that his companion enjoyed too much, and he stooped down and pressed up a twig from the ground, breaking it in his fingers, and not raising his eyes.

"You see, I have grown up near her since she was a child," went on Holt, "and I don't think she would ever think of me, save a kind of brother. I'm not going to give her the trouble of saying 'No' to me. Girls don't care for people, but they care for their lives."

"How do you know so much about girls?" rising suddenly to his feet, and flinging away his cigar.

"Who is it who knows so much about girls?" asked a voice behind them among the trees, and a girl stepped out into the opening and looked from one to the other, not a smile stirring her dark and vivacious eyes. But there was a flash of fun in the eyes which was not allowed to overtake.

Naomi Barto must have known very well what was the effect of that crimson, fluffy thing which was twisted over her black hair; and she was unconscious that none could wear the drapery of a skirt with more grace than she could bring to bear. She was apparently passive! There were little red mittens on her hands, and one of those hands held a tiny pink tin pail.

"I suppose you think it a manly thing, Ralph Holt," she said, turning to that person, whose face, despite himself, was glowing with pleasure at sight of her.

"I suppose you think it was a bold and sudden attack to suffer from that you will never forget. You forgot your dinner again to day."

Barron had quickly removed his hat as he had bowed profoundly to Miss Barto, and now he stood looking at her with that undisguised but perfectly respectful admiration, which is so great a compliment to a woman.

Did he see that admiration? Holt, at least, saw it, and it was like a sudden and terrible revelation to him.

Of course, Barron was attracted to her; of course that attraction must be mutual; but Holt was not so perversely blind but he could see that this stranger, rich, handsome, of good address, and he added to himself, "a good fellow, too, was one to ensnare a woman's fancy."

He had just announced to Barron that he had made up his mind to try his fortune in the Far West. He was going to Colorado. He could not help going, he had ascertained, for if he remained at home he should some time be obliged to see Naomi Barto with love at some one else.

Before Holt could speak, Barron said, gaily: "You put a premium on forgetfulness, you Barto. You'll make him leave his dinner-pail every day if you come and bring it to him."

Holt said nothing. The girl wondered why his face was so black as he advanced and took the pail from her hand.

Every morning he had made plain to him, he knew why Barron had continued staying in the country when one would think he would prefer his usual haunts.

"Well, Barron had a right to love her. What could he say against it?"

Miss Barto turned with a brilliant smile to Barron, and in a silent fury took up his ax and began flying it with vigor, finding a sort of savage relief as the blade cut off huge chips from the tree.

The girl remained some minutes, but she did not appear to notice Holt again until she went away, when she said good-bye to him with the frank pleasantness of any acquaintance, to whom his whims were nothing for good or ill.

Barron looked after her as if almost decided to follow, but something held him back. He sat down again and the chips flying fast from the swift gleaming ax.

Holt, as soon as he knew that Barron would make his first effort without waiting for aid, directed his whole attention to watching if the log was to be cut for him to draw Naomi from under the tree.

His own plan, formed instantaneously, to raise the load and push the log underneath, thus relieving the weight.

To his unspeakable surprise, he saw the thick branch rise slightly beneath Barron's power. He had not known how easily that gentleman's muscles had been trained.

Holt stood still, breathing heavily. He scarcely dared look at his companion. There was some dreadful impulse in his mind to turn and dash his ax against that handsome face. For the moment he was afraid of himself. He saw again, as through a coarse of blood, the sweet, involuntary smile Naomi had given Barron.

He turned toward Barron, who sprang back involuntarily a step, crying out:

"Good heavens, Holt! what has happened to you?"

The exclamation recalled Holt to himself. He tried to laugh. "Then he said, awkwardly:

"I am glad you agree with me about women and their way of loving. You see I am right in deciding not to stay

here and endure the torture of seeing that girl love someone else. Instead of waiting until next week before I go, I can be ready the day after to-morrow."

Holt was looking full in his companion's face; he said these words, and he saw something there that made him say, sharply, and yet with a kind of guttural sound in his throat:

"Baron, I love her!"

Baron turned away, but Holt saw his face grow red and then pale. Then he fronted his questioner and said, almost in a whisper:

"If I do, you cannot wonder, can you?"

Instead of replying, Holt said: "I was thinking of that old saying about looking at happiness through another man's eyes."

"I am not happy yet."

"You will be. I saw her smile at you to-day."

"You must not put too much into a woman's smile."

Though Barron said this, his face showed that his hope was high.

"I shall not cut any more wood to-day," abruptly said Holt. "Will you go down the hill with me?"

"As he hurriedly put on his jacket, then took off his hat, and stood by the entrance of the house, he said:

"They said I was sick," said Barron, slowly; "but how could I have been sick to her?"

He looked up wistfully at the strong, moving face before him.

"I suppose it is all right," he said, after a pause, more loudly and strongly: "Where did I go to the other night?"

"I am not happy yet."

"You will be. I saw her smile at you to-day."

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"They said I was sick," said Barron, slowly; "but how could I have been sick to her?"

He took off his hat, as he reverently said:

"I do not wonder, Naomi, that, as I love you, so you loved him. Even I could not so easily have an affection for him."

The blood came painfully up over Naomi's face. The pulse at her throat beat heavily.

"You mistake," she said, in a voice that, sad as was, started Holt into a guilty happiness. "I did not love him. I have always loved you."

Holt took the little half-frozen hand quickly in his.

"How is his life, as I would have given mine?" he said, as soon as he could speak without too much tremor in his voice.

"He has a life, as I would have given mine," he said, as soon as he could speak without too much tremor in his voice.

Then they both heard what might have been a cry, but it had such a strange and suffocated sound in it that Holt could not tell if it was human voice or a horse.

"You heard that?" said Barron, who felt irritated that the other should feel so little interest in this sign of distress.

"Yes; but I don't know what to make of it. Some dog, perhaps."

"Whatever it is, I shall follow it up."

And he turned off to the left and began walking toward the thick growing wood, while Holt kept by his side suddenly but persistently, as if having some interest in the affair in hand.

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They saw the dark hair loosened and hanging from the snow, something resembling what women call a "cloud."

"It was like what Naomi Barto had when I last met her," said Holt.

"I suppose you think it was a bold and sudden attack to suffer from that you will never forget. You forgot your dinner again to day."

Barron had quickly removed his hat as he had bowed profoundly to Miss Barto, and now he stood looking at her with that undisguised but perfectly respectful admiration, which is so great a compliment to a woman.

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"I am glad you agree with me about women and their way of loving. You see I am right in deciding not to stay

A STATE BALL IN JAPAN.

CURIOS SCENES WITNESSED BY A YOUNG AMERICAN.

The decorations, the Music, the People, Present, their Dress and How They Acted.

A young American describes the scenes witnessed by him at a ball given in honor of the Emperor of Japan at Tokio, Japan, by the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Count Jionnye.

The writer says the ball was held "at the splendid hotel of the Rokumeikan—the swell club of Tokio. All the officers of the empire, the foreign legations, and a great many outside foreigners were invited.

"The club itself is a very fine one and the music is excellent. The young men are good-looking, the young women are very attractive, and the ballroom is a picture of beauty and gaiety.

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The People's Press.

SALEM, N. C.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1885.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Salem, N. C.

THE PEOPLE'S PRESS
FOR 1885.

\$1.50 A YEAR.

The Press entered its thirty-third volume on January 1st, 1885.

Now is the time to subscribe. It will be our endeavor to make the Press more interesting and enterprising than ever.

L. V. & E. T. BLUM,
Salem, N. C., Jan. 5, 1885.

O'Donovan Rossa is recovering from his wounds.

The Bankruptcy bill has been defeated in the House of Representatives.

THE COLD WAVE. — Dispatches from all the western and northeastern points indicate that the heaviest snow storm of the season prevails. In Chicago Monday at noon business was nearly suspended, snow lying to a great depth on the streets. At least six inches of snow fell between the beginning of the storm Monday night and six o'clock Tuesday morning.

The Fall of Khartoum.

London, Feb. 5.—10 a. m.—Intelligence just received her states that Khartoum has been captured by the Arabian Rebels, through the treachery of some of Gordon's Arabs.

Col. Wilson, of the British army, arrived at Khartoum on January 28, and was greatly surprised to find that the rebels were in possession of that place. He immediately started on his return down the river, and proceeded under a heavy fire from the rebels. When some miles below Shublaka Cataract, Col. Wilson's steamers were wrecked, but he and his whole party managed to reach an island in safety, where they are secure. A steamer has gone to bring them back to the British camp near Metemeh.

The British government have ordered troops from England and India, and are determined to put down the Mahdi.

LATEST.—By Wednesday's noon mail.

Col. Wilson and Worthy have escaped from the island and arrived at Korti. They report that Gen. Gordon was stabbed and killed as he was leaving the Government house after the fall of Khartoum.

SENATOR BAYARD TALKS.

He Favors a Strictly Business Administration by Cleveland.

Interview in Charlestown News & Courier.

"I take it then, Senator, that you believe the new administration should be a business administration?"

"Most certainly I do. The incoming administration, Democratic or whatever you may call it, will be confronted by the gravest difficulties. The Republicans have left us a heritage of great evils. They have put off and put off. Their policy has been one of uninterrupted postponement. They have not settled the currency question. They issue a promise to pay and take that promise up with another promise to pay. They have not settled the silver question. They have not removed the outrageous wrongs of the tariff. They have done nothing for American shipping. They have left us the wreck of a navy. The new administration must undertake to dispose of the problems arising out of this condition of things. How it shall proceed is a momentous question. If it is to be controlled by political tyranny such as that which has held sway of recent years it will soon sink and go to ruin; and it ought to. Unless it is to occupy a higher ground in this respect than those administrations that have recently preceded it I want nothing to do with it. I have been here, and I know how things have been done. I have seen the infamies of partisan supremacy and greed. If I rightly interpret the influences by which Mr. Cleveland was elected, he comes here from embarrassing obligations, and can adopt such a policy as he in his own heart and conscience and good judgment may hold to be best for the whole country. His election was not so much a party triumph as a triumph of honesty and reform. He was not elected by Democrats alone. The 200,000 majority he received when he was elected Governor of New York was made up largely of Republicans. There is a certain powerful and well-defined public sentiment to which he owes allegiance, and he is faithful to the promptings of that sentiment. He will not submit to the dictates of the politicians."

Good Seeds Direct from the Farm.

Many of our readers have known Joseph Harris as an agricultural writer. He was formerly editor and proprietor of the *Genesee Farmer*, and is now one of the editors of the *American Agriculturist* of New York, but resides on his farm near Rochester, N. Y. His "Walks and Talks on the Farm," giving his experience of actual farm life, are full of interest and instruction. Like many other farmers we presume he finds that wheat growing at present prices is not specially remunerative, and is turning his attention to market gardening and seed raising. We have received his seed catalogue for 1885, with directions for cultivation. He warrants his seeds to be fresh, pure and good, and sells them at very reasonable prices. He writes us that he will be particularly pleased to have the readers of the Press send for his catalogue this year. Do not hesitate to send for it. Send your name as soon as you read this. Address, Joseph Harris, Moroton Farm, Rochester, N. Y.

The truth in masquerade is Bryon's term for a lie. But it is the truth, and not masquerade, that Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup cures coughs and colds, and so prevents worse evils, that may end in death. Nature so speedy.

—Rev. W. H. Hall, of the North

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Rev. W.

The People's Press.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1885.

LOCAL ITEMS.

AN EPITOME OF THE WEEK'S DOINGS.

Departure and arrival of Trains on the Salem Branch—N. W. N. C. R. R.

No. 9 Leaves Salem, 6:00 a. m.
" 10 Arrives 11:38 a. m.
" 11 Leaves 5:10 p. m.
" 12 Arrives 11:57 a. m.

Instrumental Music.

Persons wishing to take lessons on Cornet, any brass instrument can be accommodated by applying to S. T. MICKEY, Salem, N. C. Jan 22d, 1885.

See new advertisement.

A first-class ice house for rent. Apply to C. E. Crist.

Now Moon on the 14th, St. Valentine's Day.

C. F. Nissen killed eight hogs that weighed 1,870 pounds.

A selected lot of VALENTINE CARDS at SALEM BOOKSTORE.

Thermometer 8 degrees above zero on Wednesday morning. Cuck!

Wheat is not looking very well yet, but it may be better for it to be late.

Elder William Turner has been chosen pastor of Abbott's Creek church for the next year.

Lis Phoebe Turner, having recovered from her recent illness, is again in Mr. Foust's store, Winston.

From the amount of logs being hauled T. H. Spangh, must be doing a fair business at his mill near Hopewell.

Joe Penney is making preparations to build a residence and also a large and commodious greenhouse near the premises of C. E. Crist.

Last Sunday was Sexagesima, two weeks before the Lenten season. Next Sunday will be Quinquagesima, or seven weeks before Easter.

A free trial of Prof. Harris' Pastille treatment for nervous and physical disease in men can be had of Harris Remedy Co., St. Louis, Mo.

Last year C. F. Nissen planted 64 bushels of Irish potatoes and raised from them 126 bushels besides what he used before digging time.

Stephen Bodenhamer, of this county, has a dog with which he caught 26 wild turkeys last winter, and in one day this winter he caught four.

Some thief entered the smokehouse of Andrew Long, of Davidson county, one night last week, and stole two pieces of bacon. No clue to who did it.

Rev. R. T. Vann, pastor of the Baptist church at Wake Forest College, will commence a series of meetings in the Baptist church, Winston, about the 15th instant.

Franz Vogler celebrated his 21st birthday on last Friday. A number of young friends gathered in the evening and closed the day with a very enjoyable party.

Watahown is agitating the question of incorporation. A majority are in favor of it, but there are many who oppose it. Both parties will send a petition to the Legislature.

John Foltz shot a fine wild goose on Thursday, the 29th ult., on South Fork creek, measuring 5 feet 3 inches from tip to tip of wings. A flock of them are using along the creek.

Dr. Rondthaler will form a confirmation class this week. All persons who desire instruction preparatory to joining the church, will call on him at his residence on Church Street.

A North Carolina Musical Association has been formed at Raleigh. Among the members we notice the names of Profs. Frederick Agthe and E. W. Lineback, of this place.

A blizzard-baby-cyclone-cold-wave struck us on Tuesday, masking the empty ice-houses look forward to better times in their line of business. Other interests shivered, however on the other hand.

Miss Mary M. Zevely is in Raleigh, visiting her sick sister, Mrs. Purnell, who is getting better from an attack of diphtheria. Miss Lula Purnell was also sick of same disease, but is well again.

One tobacco raiser in speaking of the danger of loss in selling tobacco at the barn, says he sold one crop at the barn for \$20 per hundred pounds. The purchased loaded three wagons with it, took it to market, and made a good profit.

R. B. Kerner and wife made a narrow escape with their lives a few days ago. On their way to Kersherville in a buggy, the vehicle, horse and all went over an embankment of about fifteen feet. Fortunately they were not injured. There was some damage to the buggy.

Rev. Geo. M. Gibbs, a Presbyterian minister, died at Morganton, on Wednesday last. His remains were brought here and interred in the cemetery. Mr. Gibbs was the father of Mrs. Rufus Brown and Mrs. Lanier, of Winston, and died in the 78th year of his age.

AN ACCIDENT.—On last Saturday, at Alfonzo Livingood's, in Davidson County, at a chopping frolic, Felix Long, son of Rev. Thomas Long, started to move his jacket from where a tree was going to fall. The tree fell sooner than expected, and he started to run, but was struck on the head by the falling tree. The skull was fractured, and the boy is still in a critical condition.

We had the pleasure of attending the impromptu Art Reception at the Academy Studio on Monday evening. The Drawing and Painting Department is in charge of Miss E. D. Lewis, of New York, who has for a number of years been studying under the best teachers in St. Louis and in New York. Several of her paintings were on exhibition, showing unusual merit and fine finish.

The large screen panels, were beautiful and much admired, as well as the smaller floral pieces. The portrait of the artist's brother, was the best crayon work we have ever seen. The collection was highly creditable to Miss Lewis.

The Embroidery Department, under the care of Miss G. Siewers, was also well represented, showing good work, and many beautiful designs were shown. Indeed this department has been constantly improving.

The whole collection indicated faithful and artistic work not often found among us.

Among the art-work shown in the Studio was an exquisite though unfinished panel, painted by the late Mrs. F. H. Fries. It is just as she left it, and is highly prized. On either side were photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Fries, entwined with ivy. Mr. F., as a memorial of his wife, has endowed the Art Department with \$1000.

Considerable excitement prevails in Lexington and neighboring portions of Davidson County, relative to the proposed annexation of Clemmonsville Township to Forsyth County. If the citizens of that portion of Davidson wish to be annexed to Forsyth, we think their wish should be gratified. A similar movement was many years ago, but failed.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.—We have often noticed the origin of this time honored day, dedicated to the patron saint of love. But as the inquiry as to its true origin is often made, we repeat that

St. Valentine was a priest of Rome, martyred in the 3rd century, but he seems to have had no connection with the notions and practices of the day. Possibly this being about the season, in the South, when birds choose their mates is one reason. Antiquarians have also mentioned that the feast of Lupercalia, in ancient Rome, in honor of Pan and Juno, were held about this time, and that amongst the ceremonies was a game in which young men and women chose each jocularly by lot. The day is now observed by sending comic and sentimental cards through the mails.

A list of letters remaining in the Post Office at Salem, N. C., for the week ending Feb. 7th, 1885:

P. O. Brown, Mrs. Mary Charles, (2), William Davis, Miss Bebe Everhart, Francy Elbert, Adelbert Elbert, Miss Karrist Fries, Newson Green, Miss Penne Howard, Mrs. Elizabeth Knott, Miss Dossia Patterson, Sandy E. Pfaff, (2), Mrs. Leana Filly, Miss Mattie Wolf.

Mr. John H. Finch, an old citizen of this county, died at the residence of his son Mr. J. W. Finch, last Saturday.

Mr. Fred. H. Stith, of Thomasville, has been designated by the Governor, to represent the State of North Carolina on the staff of Gen. Sheridan, marshal of the day for the Washington monument celebration.

We were informed this morning that a full roller flour mill of seventy-five barrels daily capacity, is to be built in Lexington during the summer.

Mr. Wilson Kington's store was entered by thieves last Monday night. They broke open the cash drawer, but got nothing for their pains. They helped themselves to about one hundred pounds of sugar and a quantity of flour and other goods.

Mr. Emery E. Raper has been licensed by the supreme court to practice law.

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SCRAPS FROM THE FEASTS.

A QUEEN INDUSTRY WHICH FLOUR- ISSES IN NEW YORK.

Gathering Up the Food Left Over at
Fashionable Entertainments
How It is Resold.

A belated New York reporter found himself in front of a handsome house on Madison avenue at 2 A. M. A dilapidated wagon drawn by an aged horse, stood before the house. The reporter noticed two men hurrying from the cart, with empty pails and pails into the basement. They were filling the wagon speedily with the same filled to the brim. For a moment it looked like a burglary, but the presence of a policeman on the nearest corner was assurance to the contrary. One of the men paused as if to rest for a moment, and the reporter accosted him:

"What's the racket?"

"The same old thing. Free lunches, cheap dinners, and Eye-washers."

"I don't quite catch on. What are you doing in the place?"

"Why don't you see, they've had a party there to night, and a big supper. They've left three times as much as they've eaten, and we're buying it up from the steward. Well, take it around to our regular customers and sell it all before the clock to-morrow."

"Regular customers? Why, is this a regular trade?"

"Of course it is, and has been for over ten years of my own knowledge. You see, there are a hundred parties and over given every night here in New York. Nearly all of them are supplied by regular caterers, who have to pay the daily paper. Now, at these rackets they always put up a lot, more than they want. They can't help themselves, because it would never do to have just as much as their guests needed and no more. It would look just as if they were dead broke. Old families order generally twice as much as they're going to use, new families order twice as much, and shoddy five and ten times as much. Why, last week we took in a swell place where they had fifty people, and they had enough grub for five hundred. Now, what happens? The party or wedding is all over, and there's all that stuff left unattended. All they can do is to throw it into the swill barrel. That's the way we get our trade coming along and buy it up. Sometimes we buy it from the caterer. It saves him trouble and time, as we clean off all the dishes and leave them ready for his washers. Sometimes we make the deal with the cook or the butler, and sometimes, but not very often, with the old man of the house. Anyway, we manage to get hold of the stuff."

"What do you do?"

"Well, that depends. With a reliable caterer we can find out what will be left over, and can make a fair bid. With cooks and servants we generally stake him with a two or a five-dollar note. Almost always we come out ahead, but now and then we get lost. Cooks are getting too smart and want too much. With the help of the house, though, it's easy work, and a *voilà* will satisfy him every time."

"What do you do with the stuff?"

"Sell it to our customers. There's first, the cheap restaurants. They're always ready to take anything cheap. If you can get a chicken for \$2 they will cook it, clean it, and take it to you. You see, they afford to eat it. We sell it to the caterers, with the help of the house, though, it's easy work, and a *voilà* will satisfy him every time."

"What do you get mostly from parties?"

"First, leavings from plates; then melted ice cream; next sandwiches, and then cake. Occasionally we get Charlotte Russe and candies. In the old days we used to get cold puddings; but since they've used real boiled beef in making chicken, we get a good deal. On warm nights we collar a good many fried and pickled oysters; on cold nights almost none at all. When they put up cold ham, corned beef, turkey and venison, people don't eat a quarter of it, and then we come in solid."

"We can see all the parties on the kind of jazz it is. Literaries are the worst of all; they only have bouillon, coffee, sandwiches, and salad, and there's nothing left over. Musicals are almost as bad. Kettledrums and afternoon rackets are not much good either. The best is a wedding. They send out a thousand invites and set up for 700, and then the caterer has to pay for 1,000. The public men are the next best. Then come birthday, christening, and tin wedding parties. Wakes, too, are sometimes boss. The only way to size them up is to know the caterer and get all the points from him."

"Do you ever get any wine?"

"No. The old man of the house always orders what's left over, and that's left. If he don't, the waiters drink it, and they are always helped out by the servants. I've been in the business for ten years, and I never got even a half bottle. That is, I didn't get any wine, although I did get the empty bottles. They don't pay, though, unless you get more than fifty, and then they bring you about a dollar. But I've got to stop, as I'm off now to Washington market for our first customer."

A Young Doctor's Experience.

When Dr. Koch, the discoverer of several kinds of bacteria, or the germs of different diseases, brought forward the cholera bacilli, which he averred could not be mistaken for any other, the enthusiasm among scientific men was so great that several students offered themselves as subjects for experiments urging that they should be allowed to swallow the bacilli, to prove the truth of Dr. Koch's discoveries, and to help establish the chance of cure.

Such heroism and willingness to sacrifice life to promote the science of the healing art has been not uncommon among medical students in all times. A still more recent case shows a physician not only offering to die, but really risking his life to save that of another.

Dr. Rabbath, a young physician in London, while removing the deposit lately from the throat of a child dying with diphtheria, applied his own mouth to the tube and sucked it out, as the last hope of rescue. The heroic sacrifice was useless in saving life. Both the child and the physician died.

The estimated cost of intoxicating liquors consumed annually in the United States is \$600,000,000, which is upward of \$15 for each man, woman and child. Just sixteen years ago the interest on the national debt was \$143,000,000 a year. It is now \$58,000,000.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Fattening Food for Steers.

The most economical way of fattening the animal is the quickest way—that is, by liberal feeding of the most fattening food up to the point when no more food can be digested. When indigestion occurs, the food is thrown out, and the animal loses weight. The food already turned into flesh is also wasted, because the flesh is lost by the disorder of the animal. Care is to be taken, therefore, not to overfeed but to gradually bring the feeding up to the safe point where most good is done. One thousand two hundred pound steers may be fed: forty pounds of turnips or turnip tops, with ten pounds of corn, of and twelve pounds of corn, of mixed cornmeal, bran, and cottonseed meal in equal parts; as much straw may be given as the animal will consume, the straw will serve as litter. Comfortable bedding and warm stables should be provided. A gain of three pounds a day is the least increase that may be expected. The manure from cattle so fed will be quite rich.—*New York Times.*

Hones as Fertilizers.

Henry Stewart sets forth the value of bones as a fertilizer in a very plain manner. They consist, when fresh, of 63 per cent. of mineral matter (of which fifty-five per cent. of the bone is phosphate of lime), 314 per cent. of organic matter, chiefly gelatin and fat, and five per cent. of water. The organic matter contains twenty per cent. of mineral matter from twenty to 23 per cent. of phosphoric acid and thirty to thirty-five per cent. of lime. The phosphoric acid and the nitrogen are the valuable elements, the former being worth, at six cents a pound, \$1.50 and the latter, at twenty-five cents a pound, eighty-seven cents; 100 pounds of bones are worth \$1.50 and 100 pounds of straw are worth \$2.37. But bones, when whole, are only soluble in the soil. In moist soil they will decay and wholly disappear, only in so many years that it is necessary to reduce them to a fine state of division to make them useful. This is done by grinding them to powder, or by burning them to ashes. The last is the best, because the ashes of nitrogen are lost, and if the bones can be reduced to powder for less than the value of the nitrogen, the more costly method is the better. But in many cases it is impossible to grind them for want of mills, and then the burning becomes the only practicable method. This leaves the phosphate of lime in the finest possible condition for use, and is better for plant food as in the raw bone, or more so, because it is not held in an undecomposed condition by the gelatine.

Starting Plants from Seeds.

Peter Pederson, of the *Lotus' Floral Cabinet*, gives the following directions for the domestic propagation of plants from seeds: Florists use what are called propagating benches for rooting cuttings when wanted on a large scale, as they usually are by them; but when an amateur, not having greenhouse facilities, wishes to root a few plants, he should place them in the sand close enough to touch each other. The sand is then to be watered so as to bring it into the condition of mud. The saucer thus filled with slips may be placed on the window sill and exposed to the sun. The cuttings must be fully exposed to the sun, and never shaded. On one condition is absolutely essential to success: the cuttings take root the easiest per cent. of the cutting put in will take root, provided they were in the proper condition when placed in the saucer, and that the temperature is about 60°. 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